

BY BEVERLY TUCKER.

EDITED BY
WM. M. OVERTON AND CH. MAURICE SMITH.
CITY OF WASHINGTON.

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Mr. GEORGE E. FRENCH, Bookseller, King street, Alexandria, is our authorized agent to receive advertisements and subscriptions. Single numbers can be procured at his counter every morning.

Mr. E. K. LUNDY, bookseller, Bridge street, Georgetown, will act as agent for the Sentinel in receiving subscriptions and advertisements.

GEORGE W. MEARSON is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

Since our last publication the following named members of Congress have arrived in the city: T. B. Florence, of Pa.; R. J. Coke, of Va.; W. O. Goode, of Va.; S. L. Russell, of Pa.; D. Carpenter, of N. Y.; A. Oliver, of N. Y.; Jacob Shower, W. F. Hamilton, Joshua Vaux, and Henry May, of Md.; Wm. Smith, of Va.; Mr. Letcher, of Va.; M. Norris, N. H.; G. W. Thompson, and Thomas Millson, Va.; J. B. Maey, Miss.; J. D. Norton, Ill.; E. Dickinson, Mass.; J. Brown, N. Y.; D. Wells, Jr., Miss.; H. Bennett, N. Y.; O. S. Seymour, Ct.; E. W. Chastain, Ga.; John Wentworth, Ill.; S. W. Parker, Ind.; J. M. Elliott, Ky.; S. H. Rogers, N. C.; W. B. W. Dent, Ga.; D. J. Bailey, Ga.; R. M. Bugg, Tenn.; W. D. Lindsay, Ohio; A. De Witt, Mass.; Jno. P. Cook, Iowa; Charles Sumner, Mass.; N. P. Banks, Jr., Miss.; A. Stuart, Ohio; Asa Packer, Pa.; S. P. Benson, Me.; W. A. Walker, N. Y.; James Gamble, Pa.; James Knox, Ill.; T. F. Flagger, N. Y.; B. Pringle, N. Y.; M. C. Trout, Pa.; Thomas Davis, R. I.; A. H. Colquitt, Ky.; H. A. Edmundson, Va.; and John S. Caskie, of Va.

Edwin Crowell, esq., editor of the Albany Argus, and J. C. Mather, esq., of New York, have arrived, and are at the National Hotel.

Justices McLain and Catron, of the Supreme Court of the United States, with their families, are at Brown's Hotel; and, on the register of the same establishment, we noticed the name of Martin Kostza.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

Agreeably to the call, the democratic members of the House of Representatives convened in the hall of the House at six o'clock last evening, and organized by choosing Hon. Edson B. Olds, of Ohio, as chairman, and Hon. Colin N. Ingersoll, of Connecticut, and Hon. John G. Davis, of Indiana, secretaries.

The rules of the last House were adopted as the rules of this meeting.

Hon. F. P. Stanton, of Tennessee, offered a series of resolutions, affirming the principles of the Baltimore platform, in favor of carrying out the principles of the late inaugural, opposing all interference, by the administration, in State politics, including an extract from Thomas Jefferson in point, &c.

On a point of order these resolutions were voted out. An appeal was taken, which was not sustained.

The meeting then proceeded to ballot for Speaker, with the following result:

First ballot: Linn Boyd, 45; James L. Orr, 35; David T. Disney, 37; Thomas L. Babcock, 1. Whole number 118.

Second ballot: Boyd, 64; Orr, 23; Disney, 31. Whole number, 118.

Hon. Linn Boyd, of Kentucky, was therefore declared to be nominated.

The meeting next proceeded to ballot for the remaining officers of the House in succession, with the following results:—

John W. Forney was nominated for Clerk on the first ballot—the only opposing candidate being Hon. R. M. Young.

Mr. Glassbrenner was nominated for Sergeant-at-Arms, without opposition.

Mr. McKen was nominated for Door-keeper on the 2d ballot.

Mr. Johnson was nominated for Postmaster, without opposition.

It will therefore be perceived that all the officers of the last Congress were nominated.

Several of the members present in the city were not present at this meeting.

A SNAKE IN THE GRASS.

It must be clear to the dullest vision, that a concerted effort is being made to force a false issue before the public. Presses and politicians who profess to be the special friends and champions of the President, are striving to drive out of the democratic party some of its firmest and truest members. To accomplish that end, the position and purposes of the national democrats are systematically and industriously misrepresented. The national democrats are denounced as factionists and disorganizers. They are charged with having handed themselves over in general opposition to the administration, for the purpose of influencing the next Presidential nomination, through the agency of a new organization, based upon the compromise measures of 1850.

We have not been inattentive observers of passing events. We claim to know something of the motives which have influenced and still influence the action of the national democrats. It was Mr. Guthrie and his supporters who nationalized the New York controversy. The national democrats endeavored to prevent that unfortunate result; but they labored in vain. We do not believe that they ever entertained the idea of forming a new organization, based on the compromise measures. They have never attempted to place all those who opposed the passage of those measures on the same footing. The southern rights men did not oppose the fugitive-slave law. The free-soilers did not oppose the fugitive-slave law. The free-soilers did not oppose the fugitive-slave law.

As we said two days ago, the questions submitted to the people of the south by the temporary organization of 1850 were decided, and the decision was acquiesced in long before the Baltimore convention assembled; and the only real, practical existing question, growing out of the compromise measures, which the Baltimore convention had to deal with, was the fugitive-slave law. It dealt with that in a manner which the whole country understood as a repudiation and denunciation of free-soilism and abolitionism.

The purpose of the men who have attempted to drive the national democrats beyond the pale of the party is plain enough. In the first place, they think that "the fewer the number

the better the fare." In the second place, they wish to revive the State rights and union divisions of the south, and to couple southern State rights men with the Van Buren free-soilers of the north. That is the motive which has induced certain politicians and presses to rip up the Baltimore platform, and renew the compromise discussion. They think that if they can make it appear that the national democrats require, as a test of democratic fidelity an original support of all the compromise measures, then their work will have been accomplished. They then reckon without their host. The State rights men of the south are not dots and idiots. They cannot fail to understand and appreciate a shallow trick like that which has been attempted.

The men who have been longest in their professions of fidelity to the President, are really his worst enemies. They wish to use his influence and popularity for their selfish purposes. They care nothing for the success of the democratic party—nothing for the triumph of democratic principles. Looking only to patronage, having regard only for the spoils, they are laboring day and night to drive off from the democratic party its most faithful supporters, for the mean and miserable purpose of accomplishing a corrupt and unnatural coalition which would destroy the democratic party. To the end we will repel the idea that the State rights men of the south went into the Baltimore convention under a promised amnesty. To the end we will repudiate and denounce the idea that the State rights men of the south are to be placed in the same category with the Buffalo traitors and Van Buren factionists.

What can the special champions of the administration expect to accomplish by the course they are pursuing? Do they expect to strengthen the administration by denouncing its best friends? Do they expect to strengthen the democratic party by insisting on the doctrine of implicit obedience? If so, they reason from principles that we do not understand and cannot comprehend. The southern rights men cannot be amalgamated with the free-soilers. The attempt to produce such a combination will be followed by a disreputable failure, or it will shatter the democratic party. For ourselves, we do not mean to be driven from the democratic ranks. We expect to support the administration; but that support shall be manly and independent, and not cringing and servile. We do not believe that the king can do no wrong. We spurn the doctrine of implicit obedience. When the administration commits an error, we will point it out, not in anger, but in sorrow. But the assaults of mercenaries and stipendiaries shall not deter us from speaking what we think; nor will we permit their cunning subterfuges, or slippery evasions, or fierce attacks to move us from our purpose. When we established the Sentinel, we resolved to edit an independent democratic journal, and we will not shrink from the task we have undertaken.

THE MEETING OF CONGRESS.

The city is filling up. Members of the two houses of Congress—distinguished strangers—politicians of every hue and stripe—men of business and men of pleasure, are fast swelling the tide of the metropolitan population. The organization of the two houses is engaging the attention of members as well as outsiders. The interest felt by all descriptions of persons in the process of organization—in the various candidates for the positions to be filled, is intense.

It is pleasant to witness the cordial greetings of old friends, who have for years been engaged in the same conflicts, and won their laurels on the same fields. The meeting of Congress reunites them. They come from every quarter of this great country. The new members are very numerous.

As we have before remarked, the present session of Congress will afford to the young men and the new members a fine opportunity of acquiring political distinction; a distinction more highly appreciated and more earnestly sought after, perhaps, in this country, than in any other on the globe.

Honors here, come from the spontaneous, unbought will of the people. They are won by ability and by virtue. We have no king to dignify the citizen with high-sounding titles, and to decorate him with the shining insignia of orders and of office. Our honors come from a great, a growing, and a free people. These honors are sterling and solid, rather than shining and showy.

Talk about a belted knight—a peer of the realm—a lord high chancellor, a king or a queen! Many of them are noble, virtuous, and illustrious personages. But to our mind a President of the United States of America—a United States Senator from a sovereign State—a Representative in Congress, each holds a higher trust—being held of a free people.

They are men who have distinguished themselves in the varied pursuits and professions of life. The warrior with his scars and his honors fills one office. The barrister who has mastered the abstruse learning of the law fills another. The man of letters occupies a third. The independent farmer, the successful merchant—the skillful mechanic—indeed the representatives of every department of human enterprise and industry are to be found in places of honor. By force of mind and character they have won their high distinction.

That the representatives of the people, in Congress assembled, will faithfully tend and care for the great interests committed to them by a trusting people, we ardently hope and confidently believe. The eyes of the nation are on them, and the plaudits of that nation will cheer them in their efforts, and follow them into their retirement.

SENATOR WELLES.

The following letter from Senator Wells appeared in the Washington Union of yesterday:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1853.

To the Editor of the Union: I regretted to find in the Union of this morning an editorial article calculated to place me in a false position before the public. In order that I may be correctly understood, I beg leave to say that the object of my letter of the 21st ult. to the New York "National Democrat" was to indicate that in the recent election in that State all my sympathies were with them; that in distributing the public patronage, preference should be given to the true and faithful of the party; that those who aided in prostrating that pure and enlightened statesman, General Cass, in 1848, ought to take back seats. These were

well known to all with whom I associated to be my opinions. When called for, I did not hesitate to avow them. If, as seems to be the case, you have inferred from this that I had "united with factionists to throw up obstacles to democratic progress, and thereby embarras the administration," you are certainly very much mistaken. I have no doubt this administration will be conducted upon democratic principles, and I expect to give it a warm and zealous support. There is no man in public life for whom I have a higher personal respect than President Pierce; there is no one in whom I have politically more confidence.

JOHN B. WELLER.

The necessity imposed on the honorable and distinguished Senator from California for writing the above letter, is an emphatic practical comment on the course that has been pursued by some of the presses of the country, towards the national democrats and all who sympathize with them.

The moment a free citizen of this country, whether a dignified Senator from a sovereign State, or an humble person without the influence of official station, dares to express his sympathy with, and approval of the New York national democrats, and to denounce the free-soil faction in the same State, that moment it is sought to hunt down and spear him. The favorite way of destroying him is to give it out that he is a sworn foe to President Pierce and the policy to be indicated in his message.

We have all along denounced those who have thought fit to pursue that course. The moment Senator Wells's letter to the national democrats was spread before the country, it was attempted to emasculate it—to deprive it of all influence, to counteract its effect by representing him as a factious opposer of the President and his policy. What was done to him had been done to all the presses and individuals who had the manly independence to express their sympathy with the national democrats of New York—their disapproval of the expulsion of Judge Bronson from office—the malignant persecution of Mr. Dickinson and the infamous spoils doctrines of the Van Buren faction.

Senator Wells but repeats in his letter in the Union what he had before written to the New York meeting. He complains of the same injustice that we have complained of—that the New York democracy have complained of.

We stand now precisely where we have all along stood. Nothing has moved us—nothing shall.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS.

It is stated that Alexandre Dumas, the great French novelist, has written to a friend in this country, to "find him, on the borders of the St. Lawrence, the Hudson, the Delaware, or the Ohio, a corner where, surrounded by his chosen friends, he may spend his last days, and die in tranquility under the sun of liberty;" and that he has sent over divers manuscripts to this country for publication by a New York house to be established for that purpose.

Dumas was born in 1803. He is a "quadruped," his father being a mulatto and his grandmother a negress. If Dumas should come to this country, it would be curious to see how far the national "prejudice against color" would operate in his case.—*Rochester American.*

The great Quadroon, it appears, meditates a removal from France to this country. He has written some of the best novels that the world has ever seen. His mind seems inexhaustible. From his prolific pen have issued more romances than ever fell from the great Scott, or from the fruitful James. His novels may be likened to the fruits and flowers that grow in enchanted gardens.

"Scarce one is gathered ere another grows."

His masterpiece is that magnificent production the "Three Guardsmen;" the interest of which is sustained without abatement through six or seven large volumes. "Athos, Porthos, Aramis, and D'Artagnan," have not their counterparts in fiction. In them, and in their deeds, are illustrated all the various traits of character and qualities of mind that belong to human nature.

A CITY ASLEEP.—The New York Tribune has the following pretty thing in reference to Greenwood cemetery:

A day or two ago we visited a city, a populous city, whose houses will outlast New York, for they shall endure "till doomsday." Strange to say, it is not noted on the best maps; stranger to say, though its population is daily increasing, no colony ever issues from its borders.

The golden chime of Pacific's waves has never changed a single ear there; the shout of the pioneer in the further west has never lured them hence to seek new homes. Indeed, the city we speak of stands alone, like a rock-bound isle in the midst of a turbulent ocean—the busy world whirls and roars around, but there it remains unmoved.

We visited it in broad day, but the streets were empty; not a familiar face or voice to greet us; not a light footstep to make music to our ears. It was indeed strange, very strange; there shone the sun, with the mild and beautiful radiance of autumn, and yet no sound of living thing. Marble mansions were on every hand, but none of the solemn tenantry, for it was a solemn city, came forth to meet and welcome us. Names were carved on every portal, but they that owned them were nowhere to be seen. It was a city of names and not of things; of words, and not of works.

At length there came a train—there was an arrival. On it came, noiselessly, slowly. Was it all a dream? By mansion after mansion it passed, and stopped. A tenant for another dwelling, a home for another wanderer; a rest for another weary.

So it seemed to us as we stood there, and so the shadows thickening over the thought, we hurried away from Greenwood, and were once more mingled with the tide of the living.

Santa Anna.—The Omnia, of Mexico, a semi-official organ, states, upon the best authority, that Queen Isabella, of Spain, will shortly confer upon Santa Anna the cross of the order of the Golden Fleece—a distinction, observes the Omnia, which, with two or three exceptions, has been bestowed on persons of royal blood or authority.

Death of Colonel Hugh Mercer.—We have just learned that Colonel Hugh Mercer died suddenly, a few days since, at his residence in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was in his seventy-eighth year at the time of his decease, and was the only survivor of the immediate descendants of the illustrious Mercer of the revolution.

The Knud Iverson Story.—Mr. Elston, the foreman of the jury inquest, whose report is taken as the evidence of the alleged fact, has published a statement in the Democratic Press of Chicago, in which he says that at the time the inquest was held, there was not before the jury such positive evidence of the intentional murder of the boy as would justify them in declaring their unqualified doubt of it, and that, therefore, the report was drawn in as mild terms as possible. He, however, now states that such evidence has come to his knowledge as strongly confirms his previous belief, and fully justifies him in giving the people the assurance that Knud was actually murdered, because he would not stand.

RELATIVE GROWTH AND PROGRESS OF THE CANADAS AND THE UNITED STATES.

Below will be found some very interesting statistics, which are extracted from the Montreal Transcript. They relate to the population, products, and industrial pursuits of the Canadas.

The Transcript undertakes to show by means of them that the growth and prosperity of Upper Canada, taking it from 1800, has been nearly three times that of the United States. So unexpected a statement is well calculated to astonish.

We have not the time to examine minutely into these statistics. They are certainly interesting, and will well repay an attentive perusal. Our readers can as well judge of the correctness of the data, and the inferences deduced from them, as we ourselves can. To our readers we therefore submit them; only remarking that they contain some remarkable statistical developments, and some very astonishing deductions.

We have received the first report of the secretary of the board of registration and statistics on the census of the Canadas. We believe that the labors of this board will turn out of the highest advantage to Canada, by showing her wherein her real wealth, power, and strength lie. The secretary, Mr. William Hutton has begun his work well; and, if he carries it on in the same spirit, we shall have nothing to complain of, but much cause on the contrary to give a good opinion of the census report.

It is believed that a very general feeling prevails, not only in the Mother Country, but even in Canada, that her growth and prosperity are not commensurate with that of the United States, and without any inclination to deny or conceal the rapid progress of our neighbors, it may be well, by a few facts, compiled from such statistical returns, to prove how erroneous such an impression is—the growth of Upper Canada, taking it from the year 1800, having been nearly three times that of the United States.

According to the "World's Progress," a work published by "Putnam, of New York," in 1851, the free population of the United States was, in 1800, 5,305,923; in 1850 it was 20,250,000, in 1810, it was 7,329,814; thus in fifty years its increase was not quite 400 per cent. while that of Upper Canada was upwards of 1,100 per cent. for the 40 years, from 1811 to 1851.

Comparing the last decade of Upper Canada with that of other countries, exclusive of Australia and California, we arrive at the following result:

The total number of inhabitants in the United States, on the 1st of June, 1850, according to the census report, was 23,263,488, but it has been shown that the probable amount of population acquired by territorial additions should be deducted in making a comparison between the last and former census. These diminish the total population of the country as a basis of comparison to 23,091,488.

United States—census of 1850 23,091,488

" " " " 1840 17,067,453

Increase in 10 years . . . 6,022,035, or

35.27 per cent

Great Britain—census of 1851 21,121,967

" " " " 1841 18,658,372

Increase in 10 years . . . 2,463,595 or

13.20 per cent.

Ireland—census of 1841 8,175,124

Increase in 10 years . . . 2,463,595 or

30.20 per cent.

Upper Canada—census of 1851 952,004

" " " " 1841 465,367

Increase in 10 years . . . 486,647 or

104.58 per cent.

The first census of Great Britain was taken in 1801, at which date the population amounted to 10,567,893, and thus it has doubled itself in half a century, an increase nearly equalling the increase of the United States in the last ten years. In the last ten years, 1841 to 1851, the population of Great Britain has been added to the population of 1841, 11,554,075, or 110 per cent. The census returns of all countries prove how much faster population increases in modern than in ancient times. In the last ten years, 1841 to 1851, the population of Great Britain has been added to the population of 1841, 11,554,075, or 110 per cent. The census returns of all countries prove how much faster population increases in modern than in ancient times.

Whist the population of almost all other countries is increasing, that of Ireland is, from various causes, 286,033 less than it was in 1851; the greatest decrease has been in the county of Cork, where, in 10 years, the population has been reduced from 773,320 to 531,132.

It may be argued that it is not fair to take the whole of the United States for a comparison with Upper Canada, much of that country being comparatively old and long settled. It will be seen from the United States census, that the three States of Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, contained, in 1850, 1,126,851. In 1850 they contained 2,505,000, a ratio of 320 per cent. in 20 years.

Canada West contained, in 1850, 210,437; in 1849, it contained 791,000, which is over 375 per cent. for the same period of twenty years—so that the increase in these three countries was 55 per cent. less than that of Canada West during the same time. The western States attract an enormous population, and at this time settlers are crowding into Iowa, and peopling the banks of the Missouri.

The statistics of Canada prove the same feeling to exist here as in the United States. The Gore and Wellington districts have increased 1,900 per cent. in thirty-three years up to 1850. The Western District has increased over 700 per cent.; the London district, 550 per cent.; the county of Norfolk, 550 per cent.; the county of Niagara about 380 per cent.; while, in eight years, the county of Oxford has doubled its population.

And in the far west of Canada, the counties of Huron, Perth, and Bruce, have increased from 5,600 in 1841, to 37,580 in 1851, being upwards of 571 per cent. in ten years, in which time almost 650,000 of the population of the United States have been added to the population of 1841, and the population of the United States has increased 110 per cent. in the same time.

It appears from Smith's work on Canada, that the Huron district has made more rapid progress since its first settlement in 1827, than the States of Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois did in double that time, or than Lower Canada did in one hundred and four years; the latter is doubtless owing to the almost entire absorption by western Canada of the vast immigration from Europe.

This immense increase is not, however, confined to the rural districts, for the cities and towns will equally vie with those of the United States, and a few extracts from the Rev. Mr. Lillie's excellent lectures on the growth and prospects of Canada afford an interesting proof of this fact.

The population of Boston was, in 1790, 18,038

" " " " 1810, 33,250

" " " " 1820, 50,298

" " " " 1830, 67,391

" " " " 1840, 93,000

" " " " 1850, 135,000

" " " " 1860, 185,000

" " " " 1870, 240,000

" " " " 1880, 300,000

" " " " 1890, 370,000

" " " " 1900, 450,000

" " " " 1910, 540,000

" " " " 1920, 640,000

" " " " 1930, 750,000

" " " " 1940, 870,000

" " " " 1950, 1,000,000

" " " " 1960, 1,140,000

" " " " 1970, 1,290,000

" " " " 1980, 1,450,000

" " " " 1990, 1,620,000

" " " " 2000, 1,800,000

" " " " 2010, 1,990,000

" " " " 2020, 2,190,000

" " " " 2030, 2,400,000

" " " " 2040, 2,620,000

" " " " 2050, 2,850,000

" " " " 2060, 3,090,000

" " " " 2070, 3,340,000

" " " " 2080, 3,600,000

" " " " 2090, 3,870,000

" " " " 2100, 4,150,000

" " " " 2110, 4,440,000

" " " " 2120, 4,740,000

" " " " 2130, 5,050,000

" " " " 2140, 5,370,000

" " " " 2150, 5,700,000

" " " " 2160, 6,040,000

" " " " 2170, 6,390,000

" " " " 2180, 6,750,000

" " " " 2190, 7,120,000

" " " " 2200, 7,500,000

" " " " 2210, 7,890,000

" " " " 2220, 8,290,000

" " " " 2230, 8,700,000

" " " " 2240, 9,120,000

" " " " 2250, 9,550,000

" " " " 2260, 10,000,000

" " " " 2270, 10,460,000

" " " " 2280, 10,930,000

" " " " 2290, 11,410,000

" " " " 2300, 11,900,000

" " " " 2310, 12,400,000

" " " " 2320, 12,910,000

" " " " 2330, 13,430,000

" " " " 2340, 13,960,000

" " " " 2350, 14,500,000

" " " " 2360, 15,050,000

" " " " 2370, 15,610,000

" " " " 2380, 16,180,000

" " " " 2390, 16,760,000